

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1–122 (cancelled)

Claim 123 (new): A method for treating female urinary incontinence comprising,  
inserting a needle having a curved portion percutaneously into the body and  
through the vaginal wall;  
attaching a sling assembly end to an end of the needle subsequent to insertion  
through the vaginal wall; and  
withdrawing the needle to place at least a portion of the sling assembly under the  
urethra.

Claim 124 (new): The method of claim 123, wherein the sling assembly includes an element  
for receiving a distal end of the needle.

Claim 125 (new): The method of claim 123, comprising inserting the needle via the  
abdomen.

Claim 126 (new): The method of claim 123, wherein the needle comprises a channel for  
receiving the sling assembly end.

Claim 127 (new): The method of claim 126, comprising locking the sling assembly end in  
the channel.

Claim 128 (new): The method of claim 127, comprising unlocking the sling assembly end  
from the channel subsequent to withdrawing the needle.

Claim 129 (new): The method of claim 123, comprising detaching the sling assembly end  
from the needle end subsequent to withdrawing the needle.

Claim 130 (new): The method of claim 123, wherein the sling assembly includes a sling.

Claim 131 (new): The method of claim 123, wherein the sling assembly includes a sling and  
a pouch for at least partially enclosing the sling.

Claim 132 (new): The method of claim 131, comprising removing the sling from the pouch.

Claim 133 (new): A method for treating female urinary incontinence comprising,  
inserting a needle having a curved portion percutaneously into the body and  
through the vaginal wall;  
interlockingly attaching a sling assembly end to an end of the needle subsequent  
to insertion through the vaginal wall; and  
withdrawing the curved needle to pull a portion of the sling assembly through the  
vaginal wall to place at least a portion of the sling assembly under the urethra.

Claim 134 (new): The method of claim 133, comprising inserting the needle via the  
abdomen.

Claim 135 (new): The method of claim 133, comprising detaching the sling assembly end  
from the needle subsequent to withdrawing the needle.

Claim 136 (new): The method of claim 133, wherein the sling assembly includes a sling.

Claim 137 (new): The method of claim 133, wherein the sling assembly includes a sling and  
a pouch for at least partially enclosing the sling.

Claim 138 (new): The method of claim 137, comprising removing the sling from the pouch.

Claim 139 (new): A method for treating female urinary incontinence comprising,  
inserting two needles percutaneously into the body and through the vaginal wall;  
attaching a first end of a sling assembly to the first needle;  
attaching a second end of the sling assembly to the second needle; and  
placing at least a portion of the sling assembly under the urethra.

Claim 140 (new): The method of claim 139, wherein the step of inserting includes the step of  
inserting the first needle and then inserting the second needle.

Claim 141 (new): The method of claim 139, comprising inserting the needles via the  
abdomen.

Claim 142 (new): The method of claim 139, comprising withdrawing the needles to place at  
least a portion of the sling assembly under the urethra.

Claim 143 (new): The method of claim 139, comprising detaching the sling assembly ends  
from the needles subsequent to withdrawing the needles from the body.

- Claim 144 (new): The method of claim 139, wherein the sling assembly includes a sling.
- Claim 145 (new): The method of claim 139, wherein the sling assembly includes a sling and a pouch for at least partially enclosing the sling.
- Claim 146 (new): The method of claim 145, comprising removing the sling from the pouch.
- Claim 147 (new): A method for treating female urinary incontinence comprising,  
inserting a needle element having a curved portion percutaneously into the body  
and through the vaginal wall;  
interlockingly connecting a sling assembly with an end of the needle element; and  
withdrawing the needle element to place at least a portion of the sling assembly  
under the urethra.
- Claim 148 (new): The method of claim 147, wherein the sling assembly is locked in a  
channel located at an end of the needle element.
- Claim 149 (new): The method of claim 147, wherein the sling assembly is releasably locked  
in a channel located at an end of the needle element.
- Claim 150 (new): The method of claim 147, comprising detaching the sling assembly from  
the needle element subsequent to withdrawing the needle element from the body.
- Claim 151 (new): The method of claim 147, wherein the sling assembly includes a sling.
- Claim 152 (new): The method of claim 147, wherein the sling assembly comprises an  
elongated extension located at an end of the sling assembly.
- Claim 153 (new): The method of claim 147, wherein the sling assembly comprises an  
aperture located at an end of the sling assembly.
- Claim 154 (new): The method of claim 147, wherein the sling assembly includes a sling and  
a pouch for at least partially enclosing the sling.
- Claim 155 (new): The method of claim 154, wherein the pouch comprises an opening along  
its length.
- Claim 156 (new): The method of claim 154, wherein the pouch is substantially flat.